

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing of claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A fall protection device for an opening in a roof, said device comprising:
- a plurality of vertical members each having a lower end;
 - a plurality of horizontal members connecting the vertical members;
 - a plurality of bearing feet each having a connecting portion and a bearing portion;
- wherein each bearing foot is secured to the lower end of one of said plurality of vertical members so that the bearing portion of the bearing feet support the vertical members above the roof;
- wherein the bearing portion is disc shaped having a circular outer periphery, an upper surface, and a lower surface parallel with the upper surface and spaced from the upper surface;
- wherein the lower surface of the bearing portion rests on the roof and the lower end of the vertical member engages the upper surface of the bearing portion to support the vertical member above the roof so that the vertical members do not engage the roof;
- wherein the connecting portion of the bearing foot is frusto-conical shaped and upwardly extends from the upper surface of the bearing portion
- wherein the frusto-conical shaped connecting portion engages the vertical member and is resiliently deformed to secure the bearing foot to the vertical member with an interference fit and resist removal of the bearing foot from the vertical member;
- wherein a first material forming the bearing portion has a first material hardness greater than a second material hardness of a second material forming the connecting portion; and
- wherein the second material of the connecting portion and the first material of the bearing portion are each plastic materials and co-molded so that each bearing foot is of unitary construction.

2. **(cancelled)**

3. **(previously presented)** The fall protection device of claim 2, wherein the plastic materials are each polypropylene.

Re. Application Number 10/784,139

Page 2 of 9 pages

4. **(original)** The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of vertical members is in the form of a tube.

5. **(currently amended)** The fall protection device of claim 4, wherein each bearing foot has an axially extending passage formed therein which extends through both the bearing portion and the connecting portion and communicates an interior space of the tube with ambient space outside the tube so that any liquid that enters the tube flows out of the bottom of the tube through the passage in the bearing foot by gravity.

6. **(previously presented)** The fall protection device of claim 4, wherein the connecting portion of the bearing foot extends into an open lower end of the tube and resiliently engages an interior surface of the tube to secure the bearing foot thereto.

7. **(currently amended)** The fall protection device of claim 1, ~~wherein the bearing portion is annular disc shaped having a circular outer periphery, an upper surface, and a lower surface spaced from the upper surface, and wherein inner and outer edges of~~ wherein an edge formed at the intersection of the circular outer periphery of the bearing portion and the lower surface of the bearing portion are is rounded and free of sharp corners.

8. **(currently amended)** The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein the bearing portion has ~~an upper surface and a lower surface spaced from the upper surface and a thickness of the bearing portion is~~ at least 0.25 inches.

9. **(cancelled)**

10. **(cancelled)**

11. **(currently amended)** A fall protection device for an opening in a roof, said device comprising:

- at least one rail section having a vertical member;
- wherein the vertical member has a lower end;
- a bearing foot having a connecting portion and a bearing portion;

wherein the bearing foot is secured to the lower end of the vertical member by the connecting portion so that the bearing portion supports the vertical member above the roof; ~~and~~
wherein the bearing portion is disc shaped having a circular outer periphery, an upper surface, and a lower surface parallel with the upper surface and spaced from the upper surface;
wherein the lower surface of the bearing portion rests on the roof and the lower end of the vertical member engages the upper surface of the bearing portion to support the vertical member above the roof so that the vertical members do not engage the roof;
wherein the connecting portion of the bearing foot is frusto-conical shaped and upwardly extends from the upper surface of the bearing portion
wherein the frusto-conical shaped connecting portion engages the vertical member and is resiliently deformed to secure the bearing foot to the vertical member with an interference fit and resist removal of the bearing foot from the vertical member; and
wherein a first material forming the bearing portion has a first material hardness greater than a second material hardness of a second material forming the connecting portion.

12. **(original)** The fall protection device of claim 11, wherein the bearing foot is molded of plastic.

13. **(previously presented)** The fall protection device of claim 12, wherein the plastic is polypropylene.

14. **(previously presented)** The fall protection device of claim 11, wherein the vertical member is in the form of a tube.

15. **(currently amended)** The fall protection device of claim 14, wherein the bearing foot has an axially-extending passage formed therein which extends through both the bearing portion and the connecting portion and communicates an interior space of the tube with ambient space outside the tube so that any liquid that enters the tube flows out of the bottom of the tube through the passage in the bearing foot by gravity.

16. **(previously presented)** The fall protection device of claim 14, wherein the connecting portion of the bearing foot extends into an open lower end of the tube and resiliently

engages an interior surface of the tube to secure the bearing foot thereto.

17. **(currently amended)** The fall protection device of claim 11, ~~wherein the bearing portion is annular-disc shaped having a circular outer periphery, an upper surface, and a lower surface spaced from the upper surface, and wherein inner and outer edges of~~ wherein an edge formed at the intersection of the circular outer periphery of the bearing portion and the lower surface of the bearing portion are rounded and free of sharp corners.

18. **(currently amended)** The fall protection device of claim 11, wherein the bearing portion has ~~an upper surface and a lower surface spaced from the upper surface and a~~ thickness of ~~the bearing portion~~ is at least 0.25 inches.

19. **(previously presented)** The fall protection device of claim 11, wherein the second material of the connecting portion and the first material of the bearing portion are each plastic materials and co-molded so that the bearing foot is of unitary construction.

20. **(currently amended)** A fall protection device for an opening in a roof, said device comprising:

at least one rail section having a vertical member;

wherein the vertical member is in the form of a metal tube having an open lower end;

a bearing foot having a connecting portion and a bearing portion;

wherein the bearing foot is secured to the lower end of the vertical member by the connecting portion so that the bearing portion supports the vertical member above the roof;

wherein the bearing portion is annular-disc shaped having a circular outer periphery, an upper surface, and a lower surface parallel with the upper surface and spaced from the upper surface;

wherein the lower surface of the bearing portion rests on the roof and the lower end of the vertical member engages the upper surface of the bearing portion to support the vertical member above the roof so that the vertical members do not engage the roof;

wherein the connecting portion of the bearing foot is frusto-conical shaped and upwardly extends from the upper surface of the bearing portion

wherein the frusto-conical shaped connecting portion of the bearing foot extends into the

open lower end of the tube and ~~is resiliently engages an interior surface of the tube deformed to~~ secure the bearing foot ~~thereto to the vertical member with an interference fit and resist removal~~ of the bearing foot from the vertical member:

wherein the bearing foot has an axially-extending passage formed therein which extends through both the bearing portion and the connecting portion and communicates an interior space of the tube with ambient space outside the tube so that any liquid that enters the tube flows out of the bottom of the tube through the passage in the bearing foot by gravity;

wherein a first material forming the bearing portion has a first material hardness greater than a second material hardness of a second material forming the connecting portion; and

wherein the second material of the connecting portion and the first material of the bearing portion are each a plastic material and co-molded so that the bearing foot is of unitary construction.